



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**November 9, 2006**

**For immediate release**

- 1. Area residents respond to keep manure out of trout stream in Allamakee County**
- 2. Assessment work to begin next week at Clive development site**
- 3. Group works overnight to prevent Auburn manure release from spreading**

## **AREA RESIDENTS RESPOND TO KEEP MANURE OUT OF TROUT STREAM IN ALLAMAKEE COUNTY**

WATERVILLE – What happened when a semi-tractor carrying liquid manure rolled over on the south edge of Waterville early on Tuesday evening?

Many residents in this small town took part in the rescue activities. Their concern and quick action kept manure from reaching the stream.

The overturned semi caused approximately 6,000 gallons of liquid dairy manure to spill within 75 feet of Paint Creek, a trout stream that runs through town.

The Waterville volunteer fire department was the first on the scene, and focused on making sure that the driver, Shawn Gibbs of Waterville, received medical care.

Area residents and farmers joined the fire department to respond to the accident and prevent the manure from entering Paint Creek. They gathered sawdust from a local sawmill, soybean straw, corn stalk bales and sand to dam up the manure and absorb it.

DNR Specialist Mike Wade was called to the spill site Tuesday night to help local residents contain and clean up the spill.

“It was very apparent that the area residents and dairy owner, Michael Gibbs, really wanted to protect the creek and were doing everything they could to keep manure out of this valuable resource,” he said.

“The driver told me that the first thing he thought of as he crawled out of the truck was how he was going to stop manure from reaching Paint Creek,” Wade said. “It’s important to remember that human safety comes first at an accident site.”

Wade returned to the site Wednesday to make sure manure was removed and properly land applied to a nearby corn field. The site will be left exposed to sunlight to reduce the number of bacteria. Further clean-up will include stabilizing soils and reseedling the area next spring.

The DNR will continue to provide technical assistance. The DNR will not take enforcement action.

**For more information, contact Mike Wade, (563) 927-2640, at the Manchester DNR field office.**

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## **ASSESSMENT WORK TO BEGIN NEXT WEEK AT CLIVE DEVELOPMENT SITE**

CLIVE — Assessment work to determine the extent of buried drums and solid waste at a development site in Clive will begin next week.

John Deere will begin using geo-technical equipment next week to determine how big the disposal area is and what kind of materials might be buried in the area. Test trenching will also be done to determine what kind of materials may be present.

Jerry’s Homes, Inc., developer of the site, has also provided maps of the grading it has done so far that will help identify potential areas where problems may exist.

Determination of the kinds of materials that may be present as well as potential locations is the first step toward determining what further corrective action may be required.

Several barrels of paint and paint waste materials were discovered during excavation work earlier this fall by Jerry’s Homes, Inc. At least some of the materials appear to have originated from John Deere operations but were deposited by the former property owner, DeMoss Construction Co., Inc. in the 1970s. Jerry’s Homes has suspended excavation and grading work in the area of the development site where materials have been discovered.

Completion of the work to determine the scope of area where materials are buried and the nature of those materials are expected to be completed by late December.

**For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at 515-281-8395.**

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## **GROUP WORKS OVERNIGHT TO PREVENT AUBURN MANURE RELEASE FROM SPREADING**

AUBURN — A cooperative effort between the DNR, manure applicators and a landowner overnight Wednesday prevented manure from reaching the Raccoon River.

The DNR reported Wednesday that an estimated 6,000 gallons of manure entered an unnamed tributary of the Raccoon River that morning when a coupling on an umbilical hose being used to pump manure by The Pit Crew, Inc., of Auburn, broke near the stream. The manure release occurred at a facility about two miles northwest of Auburn owned by John Renze.

The Pit Crew, staff from the DNR's Spencer field office and Renze worked from 1 p.m. Wednesday to 2:15 Thursday morning to prevent the manure from flowing downstream and entering the Raccoon River.

"We appreciate the effort of both The Pit Crew and Mr. Renze to work to keep this manure release from spreading further," said Tom Roos, a DNR environmental specialist with the Spencer field office that responded to the manure release. "However, we do want to remind producers and applicators to take every precaution when applying manure, especially near streams."

Wednesday afternoon, the manure applicators dammed the small creek, then pumped about 183,000 gallons of manure-laden water from the stream until ammonia levels fell to an acceptable level. The manure pumped from the creek was land-applied on nearby cropland.

**For more information, contact Tom Roos or Ken Hessenius at (712) 262-4177.**